Reforms in oil sector

1806. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special group of Ministers was set up for reforms in the oil sector;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the group; and

(c) the details of the recommendations, if any, submitted by the group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Govt. has constituted a Group of Ministers to consider the recommendations of Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry and the Special Subject Groups thereunder made from time to time and examine the modalities for their implementation. As regards the Oil Sector, the Special Subject Group on Infrastructure have made the following recommendations:—

(i) Allow unrestricted entry under a well defined policy framework for the setting up and operation of pipeline.

(ii) Set up new pipelines for products under the 'common carrier' principle.

(iii) Establish an autonomous Pipeline Development and Regulatory Authority to assist developers and regulate the operation of the network.

LPG distributors in Rajasthan

1807. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agencies entrusted with the work of LPG distribution in Rajasthan, till date;

(b) the number of LPG connections issued to them for distribution;

(c) the district-wise number of additional connections provided to them during the last five years; and

(d) the details of the new connections and new agencies likely to be sanctioned in each district of the State during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.10.98, there were 226 LPG distributorships with 13.44 lakhs customer population in Rajasthan.

(c) During the last five years i.e. 1993-94 to 1997-98 oil companies have released 5.43 lakhs LPG connections in Rajasthan.

(d) In addition to the locations pending from pervious marketing plans, 114 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Rajasthan. Oil Companies have already advertised a large number of these LPG distributorships. 3 Dealer Selection Boards have been constituted for selection of dealers/distributors for Rajasthan. It generally takes about 6.12 months for commissioning of the distributorship from the date of interview.

Release of connections depends on various factors such as waiting list, slack available with the distributor and enrolment plan for the country. etc. New agencies are opened on the basis of periodic surveys on the potential and viability of new locations.

Agreement with foreign companies

1808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many MOUs have been signed till date between Indian and foreign companies to accelerate the efforts in oil exploration and production; area-wise and company-wise;